

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

September 23, 2010

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by the Chairman. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also Present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, Sara Rapport, Esq.

A motion was made by Mr. Santos that the Committee convene in Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2), to discuss Litigation with respect to specifically, Teachers' Contract, Teachers' Assistants Contract, Secretaries Contract, Custodians' Contract; Principals' Contract and, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2), to discuss Litigation with respect to specifically, (2) Litigation 2008-2010, including Lopes v. EPSC, EPSC v. First Student, EPSC v. EPEA & related matters, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye, Mrs.Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

Mr. Carcieri called the Public Session to order at 7:30PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence were observed.

Report Executive Session Votes - None

Public Comment I - None

Reports

Superintendent's Report

Andrew Butler, School Committee Liaison, was welcomed by the Superintendent and School Committee and he presented his monthly report.

Dr. Cirillo reported on the smooth opening of school on September 8, 2010. Discussion regarding school buildings. Mr. Faria toured high school and Career Technical Center with the Superintendent and commented on the work which has been done there, the changes and cleanliness of the facilities.

Dr. Cirillo congratulated parents at secondary level for their involvement and participation and parents at Kent Heights School for

their work on the playground which opened at the start of the school year. Mr. Linneman reported that transportation went well overall with 3483 students bused; along with 109 outside placements; and 595 private and parochial schools. On visits, Mr. Faria observed parents who were made to feel welcome at buildings and found it to be a very engaging, wonderful start to the school year.

Mr. Faria mentioned that a follow-up tour of school facilities, the Good, Bad and Ugly, will be held on Saturday, October 16th.

Overview of Professional Development Day

Dr. Caroline Caswell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided an overview of first day activities for teachers and staff; she recognized staff members who worked together on presenting the program: Ms. Watson, Ms. Tubman, Ms. Gendron, Ms. Salzillo, and Ms. Ahrens. She explained that the professional development program was the first in eleven years; all math teachers assembled at Riverside Middle School for the math program roll out, while all other teachers met by grade level; there were about 30 different groups working during the day; approximately 525 staff attended training and about 340 surveys were returned with the overall majority pleased with the day's activities. Ideas for improvements were included and some staff asked for more time working that way; to model some other districts, teaching strategies, RTI and more hands-on activities.

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence –
Mr. Lonnie Barham presented the personnel items. He commented
that Kevin Monagle has been deployed to military duty and all wish
him good luck and a safe return.**

RESIGNATION

**Catherine Guglielmo Special Education Teacher/ Visual Support –
Whiteknact Elementary School,
Effective**

August 18, 2010

**Caitlyn Coulombe Math Teacher - Martin Middle School
Effective 9/7/2010**

**Sydney Culbertson Special Education Teacher/Life Skills – Riverside
Middle School, Effective 9/7/2010**

**Jennifer Pennachia Supervisory Assistant - Oldham Elementary
School, Effective 9/7/2010**

PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Julie Denis Occupational Therapist - Meadowcrest Early
Childhood Center 2010-11 School Year**

**Joseph Lydon Social Studies/History Teacher High
School 2010-2011 School Year**

Chris Dante English Teacher - Martin Middle School

2010-2011 School Year (Year 1)

Caren Skurka Occupational Therapist - District

2010-2011 School Year

Financial Report – Mary King, Finance Director reported on year-to-date revenues and spending through August 31, 2010; at 83% revenue and spending at this time; there are some timing issues on revenues, as the department is in the process of working on the sale of the Grove Avenue building which could go into the next fiscal year; the benefits line is 83% spent; she felt the budget was in good shape for rest of the fiscal year.

Presentation on Energy Service Contract (ESCO) and Asset Protection Bonds – Dr. Cirillo presented information through a PowerPoint presentation.

Consent Agenda

A FY 2010-11 Budget Needs Overview was presented by Dr. Cirillo. Discussion took place regarding the FY2010-11 Budget. Mr. Faria said that the city has not funded the School Department over the years and it continues to fall further and further behind every year; the community makes the decision on the allocation of funds. Mr. Santos related that we need to take pride in our school buildings and have a commitment to keep up with fixing them. Mrs. Abatecola

asked about administrators; she questioned the position of assistant principal at Oldham and using the Waddington principal to work between two schools, when there is only an \$11,000 difference in salary.

Mr. Carcieri said the bigger issue is what funds the city decides to dedicate to the School Department.

Dr. Cirillo explained that Oldham School was downsized and he felt that it would be effective to have an Assistant Principal there, which affected some savings while providing administrative supervision at the school.

Mr. Faria pointed out that the 50% increase in the line item for the buy backs is expected to go down.

Mr. Faria wanted to remove School Committee benefits and he asked the School Committee to consider removing the stipend totaling \$18,500 from the budget.

Mr. Santos felt that the bottom line budget reflected the economic times in the city and the state and the fact that the School Committee can't do any more to cut; the state made additional cuts; he would like to see the school department funded properly, but in the meantime, we have to work with what we have and make adjustments as go along.

Finance Director, Mary King , asked to keep the deficit in mind at \$6

million and delinquent payables are using new cash for old items. She receives calls from vendors about this; this budget should have a \$6 million deficit line item. Mr. Faria noted that the School Committee has made a plan with the city. Mr. Carcieri confirmed that deep cuts were made on the school side of the budget over the last couple years; he requested a motion and vote to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to support the Superintendent's budget recommendation, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

Mrs. Abatecola asked what would happen to the schools if the bond does not pass and if they would be closed because of fire violations. Mr. Barham explained that the Fire Appeals Board asked for a plan B, but we cannot take care of this in the regular budget and there is no other place to get the money. A meeting is scheduled with them on October 18th, but he did not know what to expect.

Discussion took place regarding the passage of the construction bonds on November 2 and being able to take advantage of the lower cost involved. Mr. Barham advised that Request for Proposals for the work will be sent out.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Santos to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2010 and 8/24/2010 meetings, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments/Recalls

APPOINTMENTS

**Paula Serowick 2/5 Senior Project Coordinator - East
Providence High School**

**Shane Messier Student Liaison - East Providence High School
(1year) (Alan Svendson LOA)**

**Matt Tsonos Student Liaison - East Providence High School
(1year) (Darlene Hall LOA)**

**Augustinho Linhares 180 Day Custodian
Effective 9/7/2010**

**Jose Pinheiro 180 Day Custodian
Effective TBD**

**David White 180 Day Custodian
Effective 9/27/2010**

June Coan Girls' Soccer Coach - Martin Middle School

**Gregory Jones Freshman Asst Football Coach - East
Providence High School**

Tabitha Watjen Flag Corp Coach - East Providence High School

**Michael Kirkutis Elementary PE/Health Facilitator - District
Effective 9/17/2010**

**Robert Anastasi Library/Media Specialist - Francis
(Barton retired) Effective 9/20/2010**

Larisa Badger Library/Media Specialist – Orlo & Silver Spring

Elementary Schools, Effective

9/27/2010

(Lopez to Reading @ Riverside Middle School)

**Kristen Provost Special Education Teacher/Visual Support –
Whiteknact Elementary School**

Effective 9/13/2010

**Susan Boegler 2/5 Speech/Language Pathologist - District
Effective 9/20/2010**

**Lee Myers Certified Nursing Assistant Teacher – Career &
Tech Center November 12, 2010 - April
8, 2011**

**Lori Ann Dunn Reading Specialist/Title 1- Elementary School
Level - Effective 9/13/2010**

Wayne Branch Freshman Advisor - High School

Nicholas Shattuck Sophomore Advisor -High School

Ashley Stringfellow

**Elizabeth Morrissey Speech Pathologist - Meadowcrest Early
Childhood Center (1 year) (Dufficy LOA)
Effective 9/27/10**

APPOINTMENT RECISONS

Myra Maini 2/5 Guidance Counselor - East Providence High School

Michael Smith 180 Day Custodian

RECALLS

Alisha Shorts English Teacher - Martin Middle School

(1 Year) (Chris Dante LOA)

Lisa Flaherty Math Teacher - Martin Middle School

(Caitlyn Coulombe resigned)

Motion to approve: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill Lists

Warrant #1016 8/27/10 \$250.00

Warrant #1017 9/8/10 \$28,041.74

Warrant #1019 9/17/10 \$1,040,562.90

Warrant #1020 9/17/10 \$294,145.04

Motion: Mrs. Barbosa/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

ESCO Contract – Mr. Barham reported that a Request for Proposals was sent out in February with one bidder, Johnson Controls, responding and meet the criteria; the amount is \$11.7 million. Motion to approve the bid by Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

Requests for Home Schooling – Motion by Mrs. Abatecola to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II - None

Announcements – Mr. Faria pointed out an article in the September 20th edition of Time Magazine regarding raising the bar for every employee; in his opinion that is when East Providence will be a top performing school system.

A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to adjourn at 9:20PM, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee